

ALL YOUR LAUGHS BELONG TO ME NOW {page 10}

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NEW YORK
Wednesday, May 16, 2012



#NOBLUE
#FAIL

- With NHL Eastern Conference finals under way, NJ Devils ask fans not to sell unwanted tickets to NY Rangers fans
- But suggestion is mocked mercilessly on Twitter {page 04}

Metropolitik

Congressman promises more deficit drama

► Debt deal fight will go on
► Falsehoods cloud Republican attacks over Obama's role in spending, budget woes {page 06}

Francisco Costa talks fashion

Designer on how his new line for Macy's works in the day and the night {page 09}



Jay-Z supports gay marriage

He's got '99 Problems' but Obama's take on same-sex unions ain't one {page 08}

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In the news

Cops hunt men who attacked elderly man

Police are searching for two men who attacked an 80-year-old man on the Upper East Side on May 3. Police say that at around 3 p.m., two men followed the elderly man into his uptown apartment building. When he reached the second-floor landing, one man grabbed him in a choke hold and the other stole his wallet, cops said. Then, the two suspects fled.

● METRO/AB

In the news



Cocaine found
U.S. Customs officers discovered cocaine hidden in a refrigerated container at the Red Hook Container Terminal last week. The discovery was made May 7, while officers searched through containers destined for Antwerp, Belgium. While examining a refrigeration unit, officials discovered 11 brick-shaped objects that contained 25 pounds of cocaine.

● METRO/CB

Help line for city's nannies

► City law mandates paid overtime for nannies who work past 40 hours ► New hotline offers information for nannies and employers ► Discussing pay can be a delicate matter

The city's nannies now have a new way to learn whether they're getting paid fairly.

Domestic Workers United, a caregivers' rights group, announced a hotline yesterday with information on overtime for both nannies and employers.

A 2010 state law requires parents to pay nannies overtime after 40 hours.

But a study by Park Slope Parents, an online forum, found that 44 percent of Brooklyn parents do not pay time-and-a-half to their nannies after 40 hours, like the law requires. Just 16 percent reported that they do.

"The average worker's workweek is about 50 to 60 hours, and they're not getting overtime," said Priscilla Gonzalez at the Domestic Workers United.

Nannies said conversations about pay can be delicate — sitters don't want to antagonize employers by declining an extra hour, even if the law backs them up.

"Since there's no written-out contract, sometimes if they're like, 'Can you do this extra hour,' I'll feel obligated to," said Bedford-Stuyvesant resident Natalie, 25, who has worked for three families uptown — all of which were positive experiences, she said.

Another nanny said her employers pay for her Metro-

Card and meals. She does get paid if she works late, she said. But, she added, she's still only paid at her regular rate, despite arriving at 5:45 a.m. every day for work.

Still, she added, "I've heard many disaster stories, and every other nanny envies my position."

New York legal requirements

The state Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights gives nannies the following rights:

- Overtime pay at time-and-a-half after 40 hours of work in one week — or 44 hours for live-in workers.
- One day off every seven days, or overtime pay if nannies agree to work that day.
- Three paid vacation days each year after a year of work for the same person.
- The Domestic Workers United hotline provides more information at 646-699-3989.

ALISON BOWEN
alison.bowen@metro.us

One nanny paid in coffee

One Park Slope nanny with 20 years of experience told Metro she agreed to a lower rate than she'd been making — \$16.50, down from \$17 — because the employer promised a raise to \$18 after six months.

The mother promised to pay her and give her coffee for late nights, the nanny said.

But when she worked until 9 p.m., a 13-hour day, the mother would pay her the regular rate, telling her she was paying her "extra" for the late hours, she said.

"Then, when I asked about the coffee, she said, 'I give you \$16.50 extra, and that is for the coffee,'" she said.

she said. "I looked at her like, 'What?'"

She only recently learned of the law from a Domestic Workers United worker.

Still, she said she was afraid to bring up pay complaints to her employer, fearing the mother might fire her if she brought up overtime.

Regardless, she was told last week that her last day would be this Thursday; she suspects she was let go because she was not doing housework — not included in her job description.

"It is not right," she told Metro. "It is not good for us, because a lot of babysitters do a lot of work and they do not get the money that they deserve." ● METRO/AB



► Some of the city's nannies say they aren't being paid fairly, while others report being happy with the arrangements they've worked out with their employers.

Parents respond

Some parents choose to make their own arrangements with nannies.

One Ditmas Park mom pays her nanny \$17 per hour for a typically 50-hour workweek, plus two weeks of paid vacation and holidays. After the law was passed, she said she consulted her nanny and they agreed to keep the arrangement as is. "If we were paying minimum wage, then I would feel like we

"I've never been paid overtime, and I've never had just a straightforward 40-hour week."

ONE BOERUM HILL MOM

were truly breaking the law," she said.

Another mother, who lives in Boerum Hill, was surprised to hear about the law.

"I hadn't heard that," she told Metro.

They pay their nanny \$615

each week, which includes two weeks of paid vacation and holidays. They also never ask her to do housekeeping, which the nanny was asked to do at her previous job.

Their nanny's workweek is about 45 hours a week — five past the legal standard for overtime.

She does not feel she's mistreating her nanny, she said. "I've never been paid overtime, and I've never had just a straightforward 40-hour week," she said. "I don't feel like I'm shortchanging anybody." ● METRO/AB

An attempt to record and end hazing in the Army



► Danny Chen, a soldier from the Lower East Side, killed himself last year after being bullied.

After two New York City soldiers killed themselves while serving abroad in the past year, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is calling on the Department of Defense to create a database so soldiers can anonymously report hazing incidents.

Right now, the Defense Department does not have a database in place to monitor reports of alleged hazing. That makes it difficult to determine how widespread the problem really is, said Gillibrand, a Democrat who represents New York State.

Gillibrand introduced a bill yesterday that would create a system where soldiers can anonymously report being bullied. This is meant to protect those who fear retaliation from their peers or commanders.

Private Danny Chen shot himself in the head in October while in Afghanistan. In December, eight soldiers from his unit were hit with charges relating to his death, after they were accused of mercilessly teasing him. Last May, Marine Pvt. Hamson McPherson Jr., from Staten Island, killed himself while stationed in Japan. His father said his son's death came after he reported having problems with other Marines in his unit.

"No soldier should have to mentally or physically fear another soldier," said Gillibrand. "We need to ensure that those responsible for this type of abuse are held accountable."

Through the proposed database, the military would be able to track and respond to hazing incidents. The military must respond to each and every complaint; and Gillibrand's bill would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a plan that outlines new steps the military would take to punish hazing.

Right now, each branch of the armed forces has its own punishment for hazing, and even its own definition of what constitutes hazing. But Gillibrand's bill would require a uniform definition of hazing that would be used across the military.

Hamson McPherson, of Staten Island, has said he doesn't believe his son, Hamson McPherson Jr., 21, doused himself with gasoline and set himself on fire, as the Marines claim. McPherson said he was shown a suicide note, but it was not in his son's handwriting. He said his son often called him, complaining about problems he was having with other Marines.

"He said, 'Daddy, I'm having a problem with a fellow Marine. This Marine constantly called him a 'cotton-picking n—,'" McPherson told CBS. ● METRO/CB

What happened to Danny Chen?

Chen, 19, was found shot in the head in a guard tower in October, which the Army attributed to a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

His parents — Chinese immigrants who live on the Lower East Side and speak little English — said the Army told them specific ways he was abused before he died.

Chen was forced to crawl on gravel while soldiers threw rocks at him, and was taunted and mocked, all because he was the only Chinese-American in his unit, said Elizabeth OuYang, president of the

Organization of Chinese Americans, who speaks on behalf of the family.

He was called "dragon lady" and derogatory phrases, OuYang said, and soldiers told him to give orders in Chinese while they mocked him. He was also forced to do multiple push-ups and sprints. One sergeant, OuYang said, dragged Chen out of bed and over gravel, which left him with shoulder bruises and cuts on his back. The top two leaders of Chen's platoon knew about the abuse, she said, but chose not to report it.

Eight soldiers in his unit — including one officer — face an array of charges, from negligent homicide to making false statements.

● METRO/AB

A father in disbelief

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"He said, 'Daddy, I'm having a problem with a fellow Marine. This Marine constantly called him a 'cotton-picking n—,'" McPherson told CBS. ● METRO/CB

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Devils launch #noblue to repel Rangers fans

▶ As the NHL finals heat up, Devils want to keep Newark red, and prevent a sea of blue Rangers fans from infiltrating the Prudential Center ▶ Team advises fans to only sell tickets to those who can prove they're Devils fans

GETTY IMAGES



Caroline Vaegen Nelson

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Rangers fans, you're not welcome in Jersey.

That's the message the Devils are sending to New York Rangers fans.

The Devils, who are down 0-1 in the Eastern Conference finals, have launched an online campaign to try and convince New Jersey fans not to sell their tickets on secondary markets — to Rangers fans.

Game 2 of the series is scheduled here for tomorrow night, but Games 3 and 4 will be held in Newark, N.J., on Saturday and Monday, at the Prudential Center, nicknamed by locals "The Rock."

The Devils say they want to prevent Rangers fans from infiltrating The Rock, filling the arena with their signature blue for the upcoming games.

According to reports, on the Devils website the team even directed fans on how to sell their tickets only to other Devils fans, and #noblue trended on Twitter yesterday. Rangers fans responded with #beyondpitiful to mock the marketing ploy.

"I've a sudden to urge to go to Jersey Saturday #noblue #BeyondPitiful," tweeted Teresa Genaro, of Brooklyn. "Hey Devils fans — the official name of your arena is Madison Square Garden South. Don't forget that. #noblue," tweeted another Rangers fan, Jay Silverman.



▶ The Devils want to keep Newark's Prudential Center for their own during the series.

'Ask for picture' to prove fandom

Here's what the Devils are advising their fans to do:

1 If you own seats and have to sell for any of the home games because of conflicts, do NOT list your seats on the secondary market. Blogs such as Fire

and Ice, In Lou We Trust, and HFBoards provide you with outlets to speak directly with other Devils fans who are looking for seats. This will ensure you are selling ONLY to other Devils fans.

2 "You can ask for pictures or meet them to deliver tickets, to ensure where their loyalty lies," the Devils wrote yesterday, accord-

ing to reports.

3 If you are unsure about conversing on Devils blogs to sell your tickets, you can call the Devils Fan Experience Team line at 855-DEV-ARMY, and as a service they will help you sell your seats you can't use, to other Devils fans.

 **CARLY BALDWIN**
carly.baldwin@metro.us

Council addresses NYC banking

NEW YORK. The City Council yesterday passed the Responsible Banking Act. The legislation will detail the banking needs on a hyperlocal basis, establishing an advisory board to evaluate how banks are meeting the public's needs.

Topics the advisory board will address include small-business lending, homeowner mortgage payments, preventing the disrepair of foreclosed properties and affordable housing fi-



nancing. "By illuminating the needs of the communities they serve, banks will be better able to meet those needs," said Council Speaker Christine Quinn.

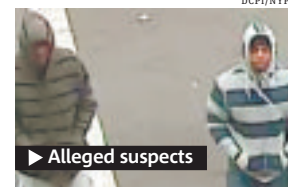
But Mayor Michael Bloomberg has promised to veto the bill. "I don't know why the City Council thinks that they have the expertise to really add anything other than just adding costs to banks who try to comply," Bloomberg said, according to Bloomberg News. **● METRO/AB**

Cops search for parking-garage armed robbers

EAST HARLEM. New York City police are looking for two suspects wanted in an East Harlem parking-garage robbery last week.

Police say that at around 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 8, two men entered a parking garage at East 122nd Street.

They demanded money and threatened employees at the garage with handguns. Then, they fled in a red four-door car with tinted windows,



▶ Alleged suspects

cops said.

One suspect is described as a man, black, about 30 years old, wearing a light grey hooded sweatshirt with blue stripes. The other suspect is described as about 50 years old, with a dark grey hooded sweatshirt with black stripes.

● METRO/AB

DCPI/NYPD

JPMorgan losses prompt FBI probe

The FBI has opened a probe into trading losses at JPMorgan Chase & Co., stepping up the pressure on the bank after the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Reserve said they were also looking into the wrong-way bets that led to the losses.

Yet at the same time, shareholders backed embattled Chief Executive Jamie Dimon at the bank's annual shareholders meeting in Tampa, Fla., yesterday, voting against a proposal to split the jobs of CEO and chairman.

Though shareholders mostly gave Dimon a pass, pressure mounted on the bank to reclaim some of the millions of dollars it paid to the executives who oversaw the trades. Dimon said JPMorgan would pursue more disciplinary action against those who were



"We will do the right thing. That may well include clawbacks."

CHIEF EXECUTIVE JAMIE DIMON

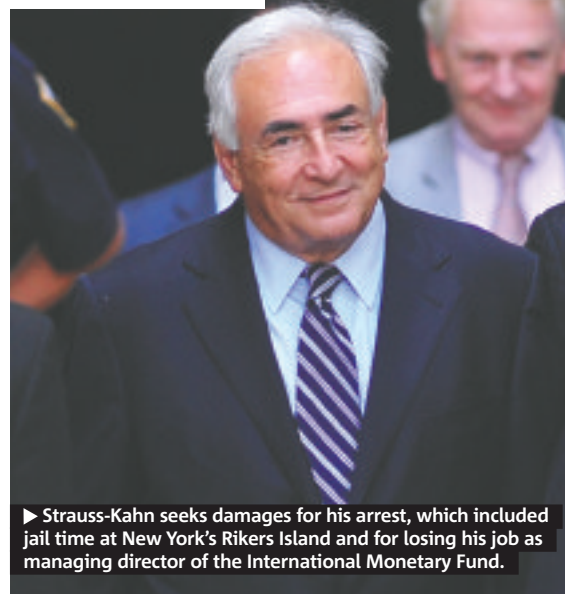
responsible.

"We will do the right thing. That may well include clawbacks," he told reporters after the annual meeting. **REUTERS**

Romney on trade

U.S. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's campaign said yesterday JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s huge trading losses were an unfortunate part of a free market economy. Romney adviser Eric Fehrstrom told NBC that, while Romney supports some financial regulation, the losses at one of the nation's largest banks involved investors, not taxpayers, and that rules for Wall Street shouldn't hamper investments. Wall Street reform has become a top campaign issue for the Democratic president and his presumptive Republican rival leading up to the Nov. 6 presidential election.

Legal. Strauss-Kahn



JAMES DEVANEY/WIREIMAGE

Strauss-Kahn countersues maid

Former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn has filed a \$1 million countersuit against the hotel maid who accused him of sexual assault, costing him his job and any chance of being elected president of France. The countersuit was filed Monday on the anniversary of the incident. **REUTERS**

Rattlesnake bites man at Wal-Mart

SALMON, IDAHO. When Mica Craig reached down to brush what he thought was a stick off some mulch in the garden section of a Washington state Wal-Mart, it turned around and sank its fangs into his hand.

The Friday encounter with a rattlesnake sent Craig, 47, to the hospital, where he said he remained in excruciating pain and may lose feeling in two fingers. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has apologized.

"I reached down to grab the stick to move it out of the way, and the snake stretched out, turned around and got its fangs in my right hand," he said. "I slung it off and I did a tap dance on it until it was dead."

REUTERS

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May is Stroke Awareness Month



Rusk Rehabilitation reminds you to know the signs of a stroke, and act FAST.

- F** **Face:** Ask the person to smile. Does one side of their face droop?
- A** **Arms:** Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- S** **Speech:** Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?
- T** **Time:** Act quickly! If you observe any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and can lead to long-term disability. But stroke survivors can benefit from a comprehensive rehabilitation treatment program. There *can* be life after stroke.

Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine's Stroke Specialty Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The program is run by a multidisciplinary healthcare team with specialized training in the care and treatment of stroke patients. Rusk also offers support groups for stroke survivors as well as for family members or caregivers.

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Deficit distortions at heart of GOP agenda



► Republican John Boehner is planning another big fight over the debt limit.

BILL CLARK/CQ ROLL CALL

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The Republican party remains unchastened for its political intransigence these past four years, and why would it be any other way? After two years of just-say-no rule in Washington following the election of President Barack Obama — 24 months of rancorous opposition, in which nearly every Democrat proposal was spurned, even those causes originally championed by the right — voters rewarded Republicans with landslide elections in 2010, tilting the balance of power more in their favor. Since then, they've continued that vehement obstruction, hoping for similar electoral dividends come November.

Last year, the GOP's unyielding arrogance came back to bite us all in the form of a lowered national credit rating: Standard & Poor's dropped the indicator of confidence in U.S. financial security over what it called "political brinkmanship" related to the lack of a debt deal — a political failure to compromise stemming, numerous reports have revealed, from the Re-

GET FED

- "Alarm Grows Among Dems About Obama's Chances" FOXNEWS.COM
- "How to Act Human: Advice for Mitt Romney From Inside the Actors Studio" NYMAG.COM
- "Conservatives mock Obama's insertion of his name into other presidential bios" TWITCHY.COM
- "Virginia House Rejects Judge Because He Is Gay" THINK PROGRESS
- "Black Folks Not Quite Ready To Vote GOP Over Marriage Equality" MOJO
- "JP Morgan May Screw Up, But Obama Still Admires Jamie Dimon" THE ATLANTIC WIRE
- "Americans Elect without a nominee" POLITICO.COM
- "Romney donor pulls support, backs Obama, over same-sex marriage" CNN
- "MSNBC's Chris Matthews tells black preacher to 'evolve'" BEARINGDRIFT.COM

publican party's strict adherence to a no-tax orthodoxy.

Now, House Speaker John Boehner has promised a repeat of that bruising battle, Boehner, speaking at a fiscal summit yesterday, affirmed his plan to once again play hard-to-get over the previously routine bipartisan procedure of raising the debt ceiling. "I will again insist on my simple principle of cuts and reforms greater than the debt limit increase," he said. It sounds good on its face,

but Boehner's talk of "cuts and reforms" is a ruse. In 2011, Obama agreed to more cuts than many in his coalition had bargained for, but Boehner toed the line on the Grover Norquist no-tax pledge and bailed. No compromise, no deal. Meanwhile, the bipartisan framework created to try and force that deal — the so-called supercommittee, which implemented automatic cuts disliked by both parties in the absence of agreement — proved itself without substance last week when congressional Republicans moved to squeeze their way out of their half of the bad bargain, voting to cut social programs as a means of preventing reductions in military funding.

Republicans distort facts to destroy the Obama presidency, by any means necessary. They have effectively marshaled the deficit boogeyman to scare half the country into distrusting the executive — even though most of our current debt burden can be directly traced back to President George W. Bush. (A fact we'll be skewered for repeating, no doubt, but a fact nonetheless.) What's more: The Paul Ryan budget proposal, a Republican rallying point, actually does a worse job of reducing the deficit than Obama's plan.

So here we are again. United in their opposition to President Obama and verifiable economic data, Republicans hold the nation's purse strings hostage. Break out the champagne, we've got some rewarding to do!

WHO SAYS THE WEEKEND HAS TO BE ON A WEEKEND?



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THE WORD



Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip [@monicaatmetro](#) monica.weymouth@metro.us

2



The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Rashida Jones is easing her way in, Russell Brand is doing a little self-improvement, Katy Perry prefers kitten therapy and Seth MacFarlane won't let his colors burst.

@iamrashidajones: Working up the courage to use Twitter for my idle musings and glib observations. I feel like the sober late-arriver at a raging party.

@rustyrocks: Now I must do kundalini yoga to install a new consciousness in the ol' brain box.

@katyperry: all I need in this life of sin is me and my kitten.

@SethMacFarlane: Whenever I hear Katy Perry's "Firework", I like to picture an elderly Jewish man covering his ears and saying, "Aaa, please don't yell!"



Jones

Jay-Z has Obama's back on gay marriage

When Jay-Z went on CNN yesterday and was asked about Obama's recent public support of gay marriage, he didn't necessarily say anything groundbreaking. We're all humans, we're wasting our time talking about this, love happens: You've heard this before.

But, that said, everything sounds so much cooler when it's delivered with a little Jay-Z swagger. This guy should consider running for office — or calling us:

"I've always thought of [opposition to gay marriage] as something that was still holding the country back. What people do in

their own homes is their business."

Of course it is. I bet your home is lovely. It seems like it would smell really nice and have good snacks. Swoon.

"It's really not about votes, it's about people. Whether it costs [Obama] votes or not, I think it's the right thing to do as a human being."

We're humans! We love being human. Go humans.

"You can choose to love whoever you love."

Like you, for instance. I mean, if Beyonce's cool with it. She's probably not. Forget this part happened.



▶ Talk to us, Jay.

Crazy doesn't come cheap

Demi Lovato may get to sit at the same table as **Britney**



Lovato

Spears on "The X Factor," but she won't be taking home the same paycheck. While Spears signed a \$15 million deal, Lovato will be earning a little more than \$1 million for

judging Season 2 of the singing competition, reports TMZ. Take note, Demi: Sometimes taking a year off to fall out of limos covered in Cheetos dust pays — big time.

Talking points

First Travolta accuser drops lawsuit

The first man to accuse **John Travolta** of sexual battery has dropped the lawsuit he filed against the actor. The unnamed masseur claimed that the actor had harassed him during a massage session in Beverly Hills, but

evidence placing Travolta in New York during the alleged incident cast doubts over the accusations. A second masseur is still suing over a separate incident. Travolta's lawyers have maintained that all of the claims are "complete fabrication and fiction."

Hemsworth on name games

What's in a name? Well, for **Chris Hemsworth**'s newborn daughter, **India**, it simply pleased the parents. "It was just a name we

liked," Hemsworth explains to E! News. "I always kind of liked India or Indiana for a boy, and she liked India. We sort of went, 'Oh well, whether it's a boy or girl, that will decide it.' It just seemed to fit." The 28-year-old "Avengers" star is equally pleased with finally being a father. "I've wanted to have kids for a long time, and here it is, and I couldn't be happier."

Jessica Alba: Not such a tough girl



▶ Hemsworth

While **Jessica Alba** is comfortable with her public image now, it wasn't always so easy, she admits — especially back in her "Dark Angel" days. "I had a show that premiered when I was 19. And right away, everyone formed a strong opinion about me because of the way I was marketed. I was supposed to be sexy, this tough action girl. That's what people expected," she tells Marie Claire magazine. "I felt like I was being objectified, and it made me uncomfortable. I wanted to be chic and elegant!"



It's official: We're afraid of Tom Cruise

We don't know what to make of the June cover of W magazine: We get that it's a joke and **Tom Cruise** is in character for his upcoming heavy-metal musical "Rock of Ages," but we suspect he thinks he looks seriously hot here.

Inside, the actor talks about where he learned his "Risky Business" dance moves: "My mother worked, my sisters were out, and I'd turn the music up. I learned how to dance watching 'Soul Train.' I noticed that if a guy could dance, he'd get a lot of attention and girls would want to dance with him. I worked very hard at imitating those moves."

Now if only he worked very hard at imitating how humans act. Oh — like you were fooling anyone with those eyes, Tom.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Francisco Costa's new line is more Calvin than Carnival

The latest collection of summer dresses from Francisco Costa for Calvin Klein seems designed to transition from day to night. In fact, the setting sun was the inspiration for the line's sexy, modern shapes cast in a range of warm tones to cool neutrals.

This collection, available today in stores and online, is part of Macy's "A Magical Journey to Brasil" campaign, which enlists a variety of designers to celebrate the country's vibrant culture. Ten percent of sales from these collections will benefit the Amazon rainforest. We spoke to Costa about how he captured his native Brazil with these looks.

Which elements of your home country did you want to evoke



► Costa

"There's a level of confidence in Brazilian women — and they're not all the same, you know, it's not all perfect bodies."

COSTA

with this collection?

Architecture, for me, is the most important thing. I have great love for architecture, and Brazilian architecture really signified a lot for me growing up ... [such as] the gorgeous sunset over the [Niteroi Contemporary Art] Museum, which is basically cement and steel — very basic elements. That's my color palette: the sunset colors over the cool cement, and the white and black and gray.

The cool colors and minimalism probably aren't what people usually associate with Brazil.

Well, it is very festive — and very sophisticated. There is a tremendous sophistication in Brazilian architecture and art. I think there's a misconception of Brazil as Carnival. The stereotypical Brazil is great, but there's a love of sophistication

there that is represented through my designs, through the fabrication, colors and wearability.

Are there any major differences in Brazilian and American style?

Brazilian women are very sensual. Maybe there's a little more sensuality in the way they present themselves — a little less puritan, maybe. ... There's an easiness about the culture, the weather, what have you — the less fussy, the better. There's a level of confidence in Brazilian women — and they're not all the same, you know, it's not all perfect bodies. They're not all Gisele [Bundchen], but they're all confident, which is really nice.



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Onstage



► The Barr Brothers play tonight at 6 at Le Poisson Rouge, 158 Bleecker St. (\$15, 212-505-FISH, www.lepoissonrouge.com).

Breaking through the wall with The Barr Brothers

It's a name with a raucous, roustabout ring to it: The Barr Brothers. Though this Montreal-based quartet rocks out, the often spare, dusky songs on their eponymous debut album puts them square in the thriving neo-folk movement.

Formed by brothers Brad and Andrew Barr, who hail from Providence, R.I., the band seems a bit of a departure from their former project, the jammy outfit known as The Slip.

"The Slip was more rock 'n' roll at times," says the softly spoken Brad Barr. "But some songs toward the end were what people call folk. They paid attention to the song."

With band members Sarah

Page, a classically trained harpist, and multi-instrumentalist Andres Vial — plus a host of guests, including The Low Anthem's Jocie Adams and Elvis Perkins — the Barr Brothers certainly do pay attention to the song.

Once The Slip was sidelined — though not disbanded — Brad followed brother Andrew to Montreal in 2005. Alone in a new town, time and space allowed him to shape new songs and make new friends.

"[Loneliness] was helpful for me at the time to find a voice and to find some songs that spoke to those sentiments," he says. "I learned pretty quickly that my next-door neighbor was a harp player. I would hear this beautiful music drifting through my wall. I had no face to put to it, just these lovely sounds. That's how I got to know Sarah, through the wall."

● LINDA LABAN

Comic relief for an oppressed society

► Sacha Baron Cohen's new film, 'The Dictator,' hits all the marks of a genius comedy, but he doesn't quite top the critical success of his magnum opus 'Borat'

'The Dictator'

Director: Larry Charles

Cast: Sacha Baron Cohen, Ben Kingsley, Anna Faris

Rating: R

Grade: ●●●●●

It wouldn't be an overstatement to say that Sacha Baron Cohen's comedic sense is genius. It's crude and vulgar, but also genius. As with his previous characters — Ali G, Borat and Bruno — Baron Cohen's latest uniformed buffoon makes jokes about racist, sexist and anti-Semitic attitudes. He teases out in people the opinions that are unfortunately still very much a part of the world, even if they aren't expressed as genuinely as they are felt.

This time Baron Cohen plays Admiral General Aladeen, the leader of the African nation of Wadiya. When he travels to New York to speak to the U.N., he finds that there are detractors within the ranks who are seeking to overthrow him. Replaced by a look-



► The "loving oppressor" doles out his wickedness to the fictitious nation of Wadiya.

alike, he takes up work at a local health food co-op, run by neo-hippie Zoey (Anna Faris) in the hopes of weaseling his way back into control of his country.

Baron Cohen's greatest success was with "Borat" in which, while playing a TV host from Kazakhstan, he pounced on unassuming nonactors and their firmly held beliefs. As talented of a screenwriter as he is,

that kind of spontaneity is where Baron Cohen truly shines. "The Dictator" is hilarious, wise and stunningly appropriate for the time we live in, but Baron Cohen does his best when he can flay unsuspecting victims by luring them into believing he is just as closed-minded as they are.

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

TV watch list 'Suburgatory'

COMEDY. Chatswin goes all out to honor its mamas on Mother's Day, which makes Tessa feel even more uncomfortable than usual — especially when George and his pregnant lady friend Eden attend the Lerner's baby shower. Season finale, 8:30 p.m., ABC

'American Idol'

REALITY. The final three perform, which leads to extra shots of J.Lo's fabulous outfit to fill the rest of the time. 8 p.m., Fox

'The Weight of the Nation for Kids'

DOCUMENTARY. A companion to the eye-opening "The Weight of the Nation," the documentary series tackling the myths and facts surrounding obesity in America, "The Weight of the Nation for Kids" turns its lens to the youngest fighters against fatty foods. The three-part series opens with "The Great Cafeteria Takeover," profiling a group of New Orleans kids who demanded healthier meals in their schools. 7 p.m., HBO

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Linda Fan, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor,
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Timothy Ryntz, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor,
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Remember that mountain of gold Scrooge McDuck would swim through? That's about how expensive it is to make a top-tier video game these days. As a result, developers simply can't risk giving one console an exclusive to call its own.

Console manufacturers, though, can still flex that "we've got what the other one doesn't have" muscle. Here are reviews of two.

► 'Mario Tennis Open'

Console: 3DS

Company: Nintendo

Grade: 00000

Nintendo is essentially the king of exclusive titles, and nobody speaks to that more than every one's favorite Italian plumber. Mario, just like Joe, may be a plumber in name only. He spends most of his time saving princesses and playing sports. Now he's back on the tennis court, this time in 3-D!

"Mario Tennis Open" is



► "Starhawk" is now in stores.

pretty similar in layout to last year's "Mario Kart 7." There are tons of courts, characters and play styles. The online play, available in 1-on-1 and 2-on-2, retains the high watermark set by "MK7." The game tries too hard to shoehorn in touch-screen and gyroscope control, but it's still an addictive and fun game of cartoon tennis.

► 'Starhawk'

Console: PS3

Company: Sony

Grade: 00000

If Nintendo is the king of exclusives, Sony is definitely an archduke with a penchant for poisoning monarchs. The company has the "Uncharted" series,

"Resistance," "God of War" and too many more to list. Now they have "Starhawk," too.

This third-person action title has a pretty generic single-player campaign. The writing is lazy and doesn't adequately capture the majesty of the space Western. Some of the set-pieces are cool, but a great many are forgettable. So why the high score? The multiplayer is seriously amazing. Like, "hold your pee in for 16 hours because you are so addicted" amazing. Thirty-two people in space battling it out on foot, in ships or however else they want. It's the craziest online experience to be had on the PS3.

● LAWRENCE BONK

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Jamie Oliver wants you

- On May 19, the British chef asks you to join his healthy-eating crusade, aka Food Revolution Day
- 'I'm not anti-burger or anti-pizza; I'm anti-s— food'

Chef Jamie Oliver has devoted his career to fighting unhealthy eating — and you can see why: Global obesity has more than doubled since 1980. Each year, 2.8 million adults around the world die as a result of being overweight.

On Saturday, the British TV star launches his latest effort: Food Revolution Day, a global campaign that asks you to think about eating right. You can participate by hosting a locally sourced dinner party or starting a campaign at work or

school. For more ideas and to learn about events in NYC, check out www.foodrevolution-day.com. Here's Oliver on why you should join him:

So, the obesity crisis: How did we end up here?

The main issue is the Western diet: It's single-handedly more responsible for damage to global health than anything else. In so many Western countries, we have three generations of people who were never taught how to cook at home. Both parents were at work, food education at school is s—, they can't learn there. I've been in houses where kids only hydrate on fizzy drinks and show no interest in tap water. And technology, freezing techniques and processed foods have only made things worse.

Will the world ever get healthy again?

I actually think that multinationals and fast-food companies are the best people to lead the change. If they chose to get behind healthy eating, they



► Star chef Jamie Oliver is on a mission to change how the world eats.

would do a better job than any other government or individual. If you thought the oil and petrol industry was complicated and causing wars, think again. The food industry is on another level. The problem is the corruption between food

Q&A

Do you think that most Americans would rather go to McDonald's than to the gym?

► Things need to change, otherwise the whole country will come to a standstill. People won't be mobile. It's a question of national security. How can you train an army if the nation is obese? Progress will happen. They have no choice.



ROMINA MCGUINNESS

METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

industries and governments. We need to address smaller issues like chicken farming or pink slime.

And how will Food Revolution Day help?

I'm not anti-burger or anti-pizza; I'm anti-s— food. With Food Revolution Day, I'm trying to get as many people as possible to stir the pot. We all need to become a little fussier about what we put in our [mouths]. When you put something in your mouth, it's a very personal thing that affects you straight away.

You've already tried to change North American food habits. What makes you think people will listen to you this time?

I expect nothing. People may not want me around, but I don't think I've ever wasted my time. I don't give a s— if people think I'm crazy. North America is difficult as it's where a lot of the unhealthy foods and brands are created. It's the eye of the storm. Most countries eventually follow their trends.

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How do I know if my headache is a health emergency or if I'm just suffering from too much stress?

Headaches are a common source of daily pain and discomfort for millions. The most common causes include fever due to infection, tension headaches due to stress and migraines caused by changes in blood flow in the brain. Other, more ominous, causes of headaches include bleeding due to ruptured blood vessels called aneurysms, strokes or meningitis.

Tension headaches are caused by spasm or inflammation of the muscles in the scalp and neck. These headaches are typically of gradual onset, limited duration and are more annoying than disabling. Tension headaches are usually not accompanied by other systemic symptoms such as fever, weakness, numbness, blurry vision or nausea and vomiting.

Headaches due to various illnesses may be caused by a sinus or dental infection, the fever of a cold or flu or, of greater concern, meningitis. Meningitis is a viral or bacterial infection of the lining and fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. The headache of meningitis is usually severe, gets rapidly worse and is accompanied by fever, neck stiffness and a toxic appearance. If you suspect your headache may be due

to this potentially life-threatening infection, see your doctor immediately or go to the nearest emergency room.

A migraine headache is typically accompanied by other symptoms that may include nausea, a pounding sensation in the head or an aura (warning sensation) such as vision disturbances that may precede the headache. Migraines can be triggered by factors including food sensitivities, menstrual cycle hormonal changes, alcohol and lack of sleep.

The sudden onset of the worst headache of your life should be evaluated by a physician immediately. These symptoms typically signal a ruptured aneurysm, a potentially fatal leaking artery in the brain.

Most headaches are caused by benign conditions and can be treated with over-the-counter pain medication. The new onset of a headache that is different or worse than usual for you, or accompanied by symptoms that prevent you from going about your daily life, should be evaluated by a doctor sooner rather than later.

— **Mark Melrose, DO**, is a board-certified emergency physician at Urgent Care Manhattan. E-mail him your questions at askdrmark@metro.us.

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Letters

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As US history turns, consensus a dream

RE: "GAY MARRIAGE RIGHTS BACKLASH BACKLASH": If same-sex couples need to use the word "marriage" in order to get the legal rights and recognition that a loving committed union deserves, then why not just give them the word? It doesn't hurt; it's only a word! **MARK NOBLE, VIA E-MAIL**

History does not back up when it comes to advancements in equality. We will not have another president who believes in legislating against the right of women to vote, or the right for interracial couples to marry. We will never have another president in favor of legislating against same-sex marriage. Shout and stamp your feet, or sing and cheer, it's over — that inequality is over,

that piece of legislated hate is over. Cling to it and you're over. Next.

SCOTT KEELEY, VIA E-MAIL

Those who are against gay rights have a whole lot in common with the Taliban who deny their people their civil rights and in many cases their lives. In America, we just make them miserable. **SUZY SANDOR, NEW YORK**

Stephen Watson's letter criticizes people for not knowing their history, then states incorrectly that the federal government once prohibited interracial marriage. Actually such marriages were only prohibited under state law. Such laws existed in only 16 states at the time the Supreme Court declared such laws unconstitutional in 1967. **MIKE TROY, VIA E-MAIL**

In response to Cher Hearn: Yes, you're right for pointing out that marriage at one time was originally a business transaction wherein the bride was the property of her father who had a contract with the father of the groom. However, it was still a union between a man and a woman. **KAREN SMITH, VIA E-MAIL**

Should all weddings in North America before July 4, 1776, be annulled because the government did not sanction the wedding? No, of course not! Legal precedent is clear and historically churches are where weddings, baptisms, and funerals are held and recorded; the government merely recognizes it. Marriage is a religious institution, and it has been for some time; it's not a political one. **JOHN HEMPHILL, VIA E-MAIL**

I have one request: that people stop comparing being gay to being black. There is no comparison to the hardships that blacks have faced to get the rights that we have now. Blacks were considered the lowest of the low and in some aspects still are. So blacks do not have to be sensitive to what homosexuals are going through. Until they are hunted, hung and ridiculed, don't look to us for sympathy. **GARRETT LESTER, VIA E-MAIL**

I just want to make sure I understand this correctly: Just because I am black I should support gay marriage? I don't know what can be more far from reality. Gay marriage is not a civil rights issue stated by some, it is a moral issue. I didn't make it this way; talk to the man upstairs who deemed this from the beginning of creation. **NICOLE PEARSALL, VIA E-MAIL**

The Catholic religion opposes all forms of hatred including racism, sexism, homophobia and anti-Semitism. **JOHN FRANCIS FOX, VIA E-MAIL**

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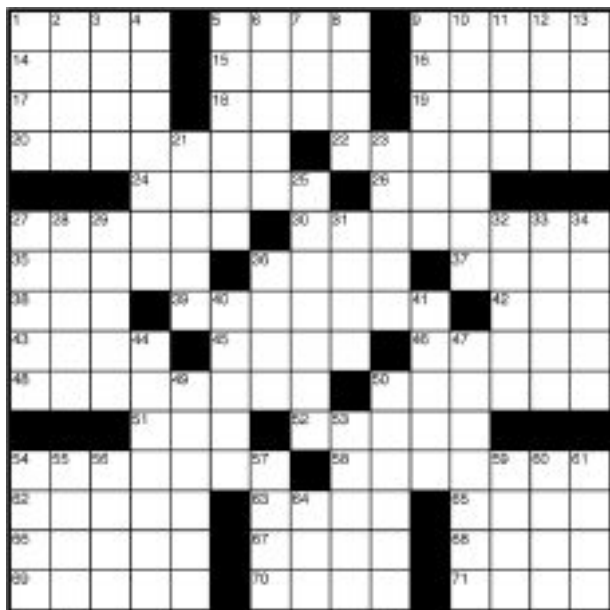
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Across

- 1 Chafes
- 5 Thomas ___ Edison
- 9 Long-tailed squawker
- 14 Kind of hygiene
- 15 Non-clerical
- 16 Weasel out of
- 17 Give the eye
- 18 ___ B'rith
- 19 Socially challenged ones
- 20 Horse's "lunchbox"
- 22 Most precious
- 24 Star in Cygnus
- 26 False front
- 27 Dishonorably
- 30 Lying fallow
- 35 Shake off
- 36 Fingerprint, maybe
- 37 Audition tape
- 38 PC acronym
- 39 Gaily
- 42 Encyclopedia bk.
- 43 Far East cuisine
- 45 Oaf
- 46 Chosen few
- 48 Metal-cutting tools
- 50 Lamented
- 51 911 responder
- 52 Things to split
- 54 Meter readers
- 58 Lake cabins, often
- 62 Cager Shaq ___
- 63 Revival shout
- 65 Ms. Dinesen
- 66 Witless
- 67 Sheet of stamps
- 68 Wheel hub
- 69 Bedouin, for one
- 70 Char on the outside
- 71 Eat away at

Down

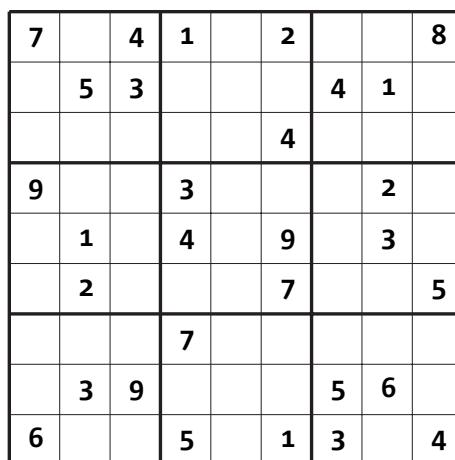
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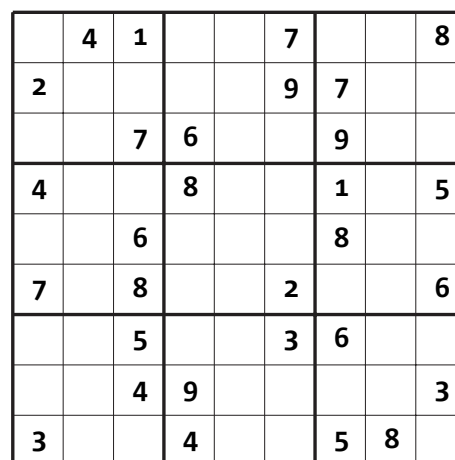
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- 8 Kind of test
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- 44 Art of flower-arranging

- 47 Liable to sink
- 49 Showed pleasure
- 50 Kind of roast
- 53 Sports venue
- 54 Fountain toss-in
- 55 Livy's year
- 56 Laser emission
- 57 Drains, as of energy
- 59 Strong ___ ox
- 60 Pumice source
- 61 Represent unfairly
- 64 Daisy ___ Yokum



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Solution to yesterday's crossword



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A need to get defensive

- Rangers putting faith in McDonagh, Girardi back line
- Pairing happened by chance ► Now key component

Building blocks

No topic in the still-embryonic Eastern Conference finals has drawn the ire of the Devils more than the subject of blocked shots. But until New Jersey finds a solution to the Rangers' prowess at blocking shots the topic will continue to be examined ad nauseum.

► "It's definitely not the story of the series. They're a good shot-blocking team. Every team you play has strengths in certain areas. And that's one of the Rangers' strengths," Devils coach Peter DeBoer said yesterday. "One of the strengths of the New Jersey Devils is our penalty kill. It's something you have to deal with. It's not the story of the series. And when I look back at the game last night, I think it was as much our execution or lack of execution, and whether that was the layoff or whatever, but we have to do a better job executing, too."

The Rangers boast arguably one of the best defensive pairings in the NHL with Dan Girardi and Ryan McDonagh.

But to hear Rangers head coach John Tortorella tell it, he didn't know what he had until he was forced to put the two together in December due to Michael Sauer's concussion and Marc Staal's absence because of postconcussion syndrome. Now, as the coach says, "[I'm] not sure if I'll ever split those two guys up."

"It's funny how it works out when you end up with injuries," Tortorella said after yesterday's practice at Madison Square Garden in preparation for tonight's Game 2 of the Eastern Conference finals (8 p.m., NBC Sports). "We always talk about when there's injuries, another guy gets an opportunity. You never know where it's going to lead you."

Girardi and McDonagh spent Game 1 successfully going head to head with Zach Parise and Ilya Kovalchuk. The top pair each finished plus-2 while Parise was minus-2 and Kovalchuk was minus-1.

McDonagh made two spectacular defensive plays in the



"That's the interesting part when you have injuries — how things work out."

TORTORELLA

first period to keep the game scoreless. His backchecks on Parise and Kovalchuk breakaways eliminated Devils scoring opportunities. Even more impressively, he caught two of the league's faster skaters and didn't take a penalty.

"I'm lucky he's such a good skater," Girardi said. "Mack made a couple of good plays right off the bat. I think Mack did a good job of covering for me and making some good solid plays, and that helped me get past a couple of things."

DENIS GORMAN
sports@metro.us



► Girardi has spent much of the playoffs manning up on the opponent's best scorers.

3

In the news

Robertson hurt

The position of Yankees closer is quickly going the way of the drummer for Spinal Tap.

After the loss of Mariano Rivera, now New York has lost David Robertson to a strained oblique in his left side. He was put on the 15-day DL, but the Yankees are optimistic.

"We don't think it's too severe but it's hard to tell," manager Joe Girardi said yesterday. "Obliques can be tricky."

26

The Rangers blocked 26 shots by the Devils in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals. New Jersey had just 15 blocked shots in the game.

1,338

The Rangers had 1,338 blocked shots in the regular season (yes, exactly), which was fourth in the NHL. They're second in the playoffs with 293.

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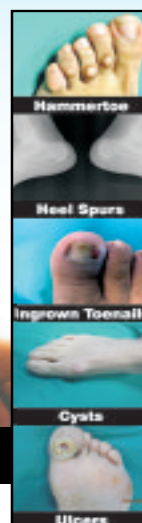
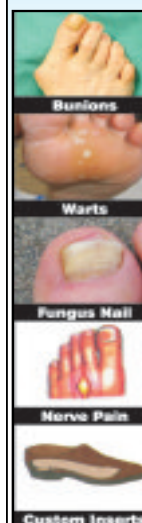
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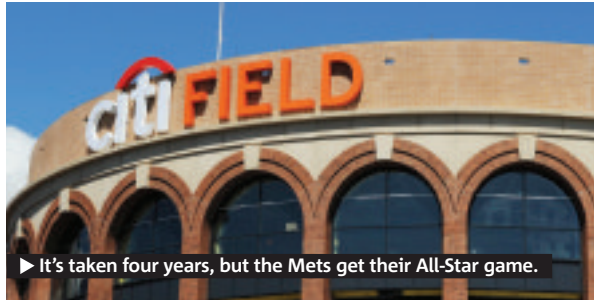
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Mets to host All-Star game

They may have to wait to host the fall classic, but the Mets know for sure they will be hosting the midsummer classic in 2013.

MLB will host a press conference today at City Hall to award Citi Field the 2013 All-Star Game.

It doesn't exactly come as a surprise, since MLB had promised both New York teams a chance to host when they built new stadiums in 2008. The Yankees hosted in 2008 in the final

48

The 48 years since the Mets last hosted an All-Star Game (1964) is the longest of any active franchise, though the Marlins and Rays have never hosted one.

year of the old Yankee Stadium. And now the Mets will get the chance next year in their newly

redesigned ballpark.

The Mets have only hosted one previous All-Star Game — the first year of Shea Stadium in 1964. The NL won that game, 7-4.

This will be the ninth time the city of New York has hosted the game. The Yankees have hosted it four times, while the Giants did twice and the Dodgers once.



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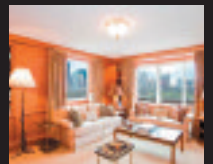
Market watch



CHEAPEST \$250K

519 W. 81st St.

The cheapest apartment listed this week is a studio at 519 W. 81st St. This pre-war co-op with a separate kitchen is listed by Corcoran for \$250,000.



PRICIEST \$16.5M

860 Fifth Ave.

The priciest unit to hit the market this week is a three-bedroom co-op at 860 Fifth Ave. With four separate terraces and views overlooking Central Park, this purported "trophy property" is listed by Brown Harris Stevens for \$16.5M.

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The blossoming

DEREK ZAHEDI/THE REAL DEAL



► "Boerum Hill is probably the coolest neighborhood in Brooklyn right now," says Brooklyn resident Terry Naini, a senior vice president at the residential brokerage Town.

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EHO

of Brooklyn's Boerum Hill

► The transit-friendly neighborhood sees an uptick in demand

Developer Abby Hamlin knew she was taking a risk when she bought a block of Boerum Hill properties in 2004 in a joint venture with Francis Greenburger's Time Equities.

But Hamlin, a Brooklyn resident and the founder of Hamlin Equities, felt confident in her plan to build 23 new construction townhouses there.

"Boerum Hill was thought to be edgy at that time," she recalls. Still, "I didn't need any convincing. It was within walking distance to everything, had 14 subway lines and was five minutes to Wall Street."

The first phase of her project, known as 14 Town Houses, went on the market in 2007 with the houses listed at around \$2 million — a price

point that was "unheard of" for the area at the time, Hamlin says.

But they all sold for \$2 million to \$3 million and when the first resale occurred this summer, it fetched \$3.4 million.

Hamlin isn't the only one seeing a return. Boerum Hill — the 50-block area sandwiched between Cobble Hill, Park Slope, Fort Greene and Gowanus — has easy subway access and brownstone-filled blocks. But for years it had a reputation as grittier and less safe than neighboring areas, due in part to the presence of the Gowanus Houses, a public housing project, and the Brooklyn House of Detention. But the area has seen a recent surge in demand from buyers and developers alike. **JANE C. TIMM**

Cool and convenient

In 2011, the average sale price of a home in Boerum Hill was \$810,915, up 16 percent from \$697,318 the previous year, according to data by listings website StreetEasy. By comparison, average prices in Brooklyn as a whole rose 5.9 percent during the same period, to \$523,808.

The rental market, particularly, reflected the neighborhood's popularity: In 2012's first quarter, the median asking rent in Boerum Hill rose 14.3 percent to

\$3,200 per month, up from \$2,800 per month in the same period of last year. Throughout Brooklyn, median rents grew 11 percent during that time.

"I remember when Smith, Court and Hoyt were the 'West Side Story' of Brooklyn," says Toqir Choudri, a longtime area resident who manages the Cobble Hill Rapid Realty office.

Then, in 2005, hot Hollywood couple Heath Ledger and Michelle Williams bought a house on Hoyt Street for \$3.5 million, focusing attention on the changing demographics of the small neighborhood.

"I remember when Smith, Court and Hoyt were the 'West Side Story' of Brooklyn."

TOQIR CHOUDRI, MANAGER, COBBLE HILL RAPID REALTY

One big shift that's driving the demand for Boerum Hill is new retail along Smith Street.

Boutiques, yoga studios, hip clothing chains and the macaron shop Vendome Haute Parisien Macarons are now in the area.

In the last year, the neighborhood has seen several trendy restaurants open, including Ru-

cola at 190 Dean St., an Italian spot which often has a two-hour wait on weekends. Other newcomers include eatery Burger on Smith; Sottocasa, a pizzeria that made headlines for using a crane to install a 4,000-pound oven into an old brownstone at 298 Atlantic Ave.; and Maimonide of Brooklyn, a vegetarian and vegan restaurant at 525 Atlantic Ave.

TheRealDeal.com is a daily blog and monthly magazine covering real estate in the New York metro area.

THE REAL DEAL

The newcomers

When it comes to new development, Naini notes that "there's really just not much space" in Boerum Hill.

► Still, several new projects are in the works, and some development projects stalled by the financial crisis are now getting back on track.

► Permits were renewed for 252 Atlantic Ave., where plans for

a 66-unit building were first filed in 2008. Next door is 262-276 Atlantic Ave., an empty lot and three vacant storefronts, which were bought last summer with possible plans for an apartment

building, according to permits and city sale records.

► In January, Quinlan Development Group bought an old warehouse at 259 Pacific St., and is reportedly planning to build a 60-unit rental there.

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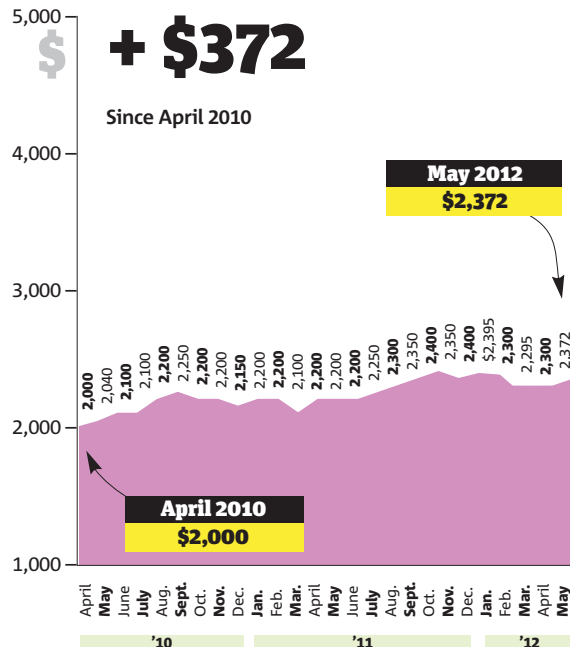
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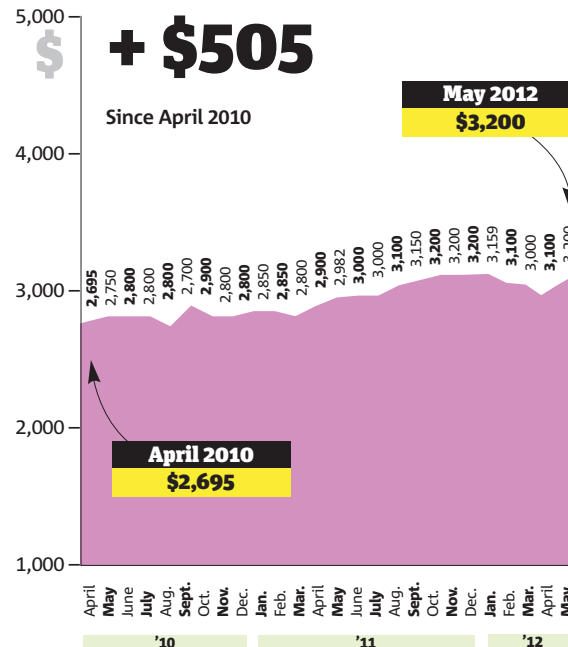


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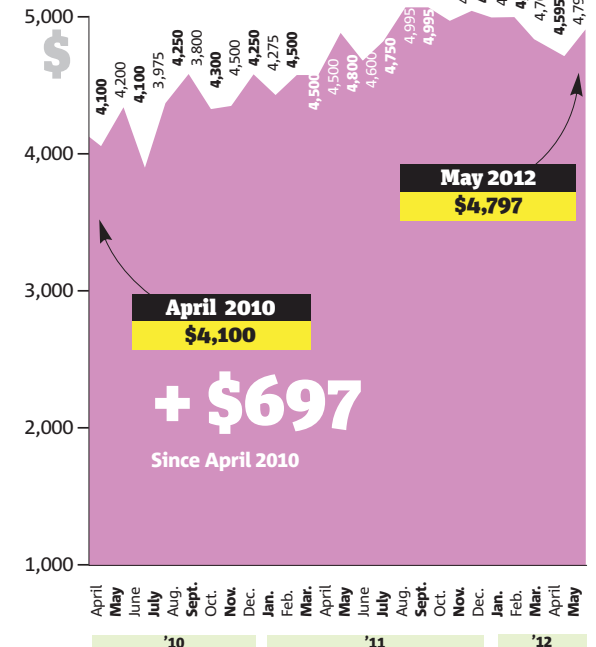
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